

SECTION II: STEPS TO IDENTIFY HISTORIC PROPERTIES

In order to identify the historic properties within the study area for the Market Street Renovation Project, a comprehensive Cultural Resources Inventory was prepared by Parsons in 2003 to supplement the numerous surveys, local historic districts, NRHP historic districts, NRHP individually listed resources, and cultural resource studies that have occurred along Market Street between MLK Boulevard and 15th Street (Parsons 2003). Repositories visited for the Cultural Resources Inventory report included the Delaware Public Archives and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Dover. Additional information for this report was gathered in Wilmington at the Historical Society of Delaware, the City of Wilmington Department of Planning, and the Wilmington Public Library. Information was also gathered at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Historic maps and photographs of Wilmington were obtained and local historical accounts were examined.

In addition, the cultural resource survey maps on file at the Delaware SHPO were reviewed for the locations of previously identified archaeological resources. The City of Wilmington established City Analysis Areas in order to provide a systematic approach in addressing cultural resource issues within the city. Nineteen prehistoric period research themes were developed for the city and 18 historical periods from 1630 to 1985. The city was divided into 15 analysis areas for the purposes of architectural surveys and for the assessment of potential for archaeological resources. In the second phase of the study, a block-by-block analysis of archaeological potential was developed. The current project area is within the Central Analysis Area (CAA). The archaeological resource management plan for the city of Wilmington was drafted in 1986 (Goodwin et al. 1986).

The proposed Phase III, MLK Boulevard to 7th Street section of N. Market Street, is within the study area for the Multiple Resource Area (MRA) known as the Historic Resources of Market Street (Hawk 1984b). Within this study area, individual resources were nominated to the NRHP. Two historic districts, the Lower Market Street Historic District and Extension and the Old Town Hall Commercial Historic District, are listed in the NRHP and incorporate part of the APE for Phase III of the Market Street Renovation Project. The boundaries for the Lower Market Street Historic District and Extension encompass the 100-400 blocks of Market Street. The Old Town Hall Commercial Historic District includes the 500 block of Market Street; however, the district's boundaries extend beyond the APE for this project. Two locally designated historic districts also fall within the Phase III APE. The Lower Market Street City Historic District includes the 100-300 blocks of Market Street, and the Market Street Mall City Historic District incorporates the 400-600 blocks of Market Street. Both of these local historic districts are subject to historic overlay zoning, which requires that any activity that affects buildings, archaeology, and landscaping are subject to review by the City of Wilmington's Design Review and Preservation Commission. These local historic districts are not listed in the NRHP. Information on each individual historic resource and historic district was obtained from the SHPO archives and the City of Wilmington Department of Planning. Buildings that were inventoried but have since been demolished were noted, as well as existing buildings that have not yet been inventoried and appear to meet the 50 years age criterion. For the purposes of this

Market Street Renovation Project-Phase III
Finding of No Adverse Effect for the 100-600 Blocks of N. Market Street

project, any building that is 50 years of age or older will be treated as eligible under Criterion C (Gwenyth Davis to Michael Hahn, letter, 3 March 2003). Parsons conducted a windshield survey of the 100 and 600 blocks of N. Market Street on April 28, 2004. Photographs were taken of the streetscapes and buildings within the six blocks.